

April 3, 1984

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responsible in terms of our A bills but I am not sure that we have done that. I think, frankly, this Legislature will end up funding far more than we have set the taxes to cover. So I think the debate we ought to be talking about is whether or not we can, in fact, fund what we intend to spend with 19 percent income tax. I fear that we cannot. I fear that we will not. And for that reason I think we ought to discuss that part of the issue, whether or not the income tax ought to be raised by one percent. Now that is the debate that I think we need to have. We need to talk here among ourselves on what is going to happen to the A bills, whether 341, state aid which is a legitimate vehicle for state aid and is a funding mechanism is going to be passed by this Legislature. Those are the kinds of questions we ought to be about debating this morning instead of ceasing debate and pushing this on. And maybe other people have a better crystal ball than I. But I don't know how we can fund what we have out there, even those things that we hold dear, we know that we are going to do something on...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: ...like teachers retirement. I don't think we can do that with our present tax system and our present tax rates, and that is the debate we ought to have and for that reason I don't believe that ceasing debate at this point is useful or responsible and I will oppose it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cal Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill was introduced basically for the purpose of setting the rates as the decision of the Governor and this body so dictates. I had assumed and I think most of us had assumed that this would probably be the last if not one of the last bills that we would pass and we would set those rates accordingly to take care of the decisions that are made by both the Governor and this body. I would hope that we would move this bill as the motion is now before us so dictates and that we would use it in a manner in which it was intended to be used. With that, I support Senator Hoagland and we keep it as pure and simple as we can